A

239 Berlin Street, East Berlin

1802

Col. Richard Wilcox (1780-1839)

& Olive (Porter) (1783-1827)

& Betsy Porter (1757-1829)

& Laura Savage (1762-1864)

1934 WPA Census of Old Buildings in Connecticut Survey at the Connecticut State Library Digital Collection. Slide # 53

1802 Col Richard Wilcox current owner: Hobart Honiss. Berlin Road opposite Savage Hill Road, north side of road facing south. Brick house, brick end chimney, two stories, 9 window front, brick foundation, the house is square with a two story wooden ell in the rear. There is some paneling in the interior of the house.

Connecticut State Library, State Archives
WPA Architectural Survey wpa_archsurvey_bw0033

1935 Susqui-Centennial Celebration of the Town of Berlin – Berlin Old Houses.

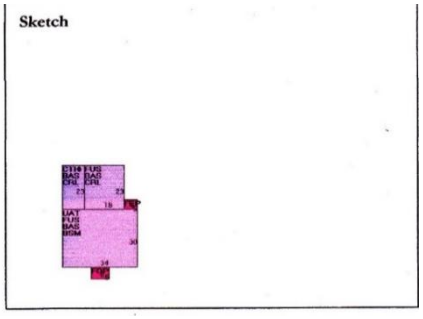
1802 Col. Richard Wilcox present owner current owner: HL Honniss Berlin Street

1985 Townwide Historic and Architectural Survey of Berlin, Connecticut Survey # 005

1802 Col. Richard Wilcox current owner: Catherine Honniss

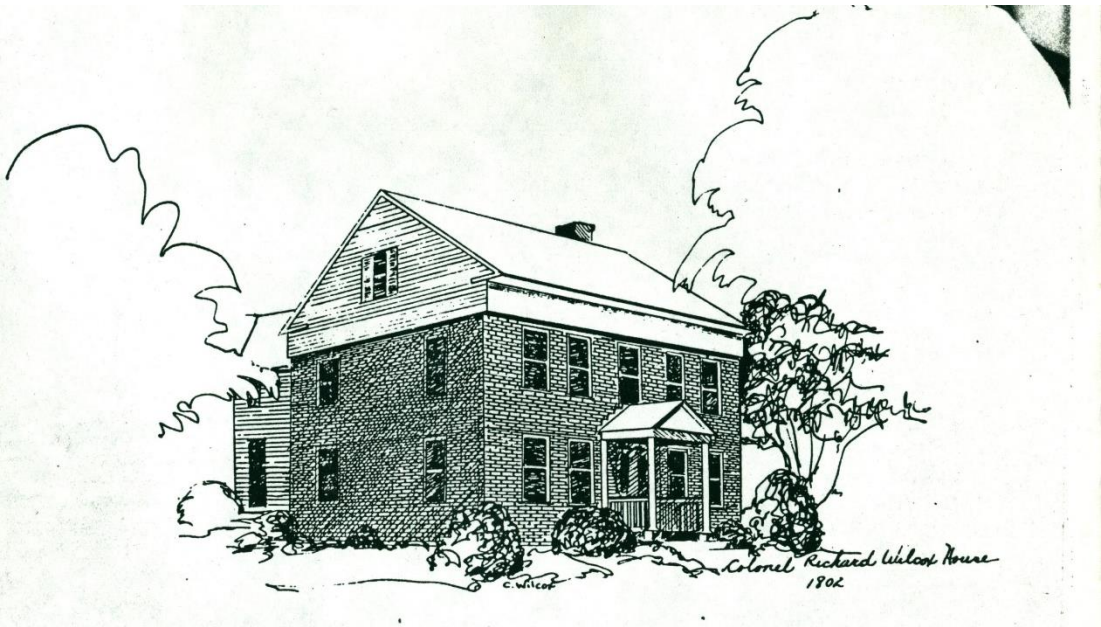
2018 Town of Berlin GIS Index.

1802 present owner Arthur & Ursula Smith



Genealogy

Col. Richard Wilcox (1780-1839) was the son of Samuel & Phebe (Dowd) Wilcox. In 1802 Richard married 1st Olive Porter (1783-1827); In 1827 he married 2nd Betsey Porter Smith (1757-1829); married 3rd Laura Savage Smith (1762-1864). Richard was a Tinsmith and japanner who supplied the Hubbard peddlars with their products. Richard built 239 Berlin St, East Berlin in 1802. He was a Berlin Selectman in 1833. Richard died at age 53 years. His children include: Mariah, Mary, Celestia, and Willis. He died in 1839 and is buried in the Wilcox Cemetery.



The Col. Richard Wilcox house, 239 Berlin Street, was built after the Revolution with the taller proportions and native brick of the era.

Historic Buildings of Connecticut

The house at 239 Berlin Street in East Berlin is believed to have been built in 1802 by Col. Richard Wilcox (1780-1839). His second wife was Olive Porter. The house originally had a hip roof and two chimneys, but this was altered in the 20th century to provide more attic space. The double front doors date to 1900. There once was a front porch across the full width of the front façade.. i

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY
BUILDING AND STRUCTURES
HIST-6 NEW 5/77

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
59 SOUTH PROSPECT STREET, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106
(203) 566-3005

#005

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	
Town No.:	Site No.:
UTM	
QUAD:	
DISTRICT ☐ S ☐ NR	IF NR, SPECIFY ☐ Actual ☐ Potential

IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME (Common) (Historic): Colonel Richard Wilcox House
2. TOWN CITY: Berlin | VILLAGE: East Berlin | COUNTY: Hartford
3. STREET AND NUMBER (and/or location): 239 Berlin Street 17-2/133/23
4. OWNER(S): Honiss, Catherine S. " " East Berlin 06023 ☐ Public ☒ Private
5. USE (Present): Residence (Historic): Residence
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD ☒ Yes ☐ No | INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE ☐ Yes ☒ No | IF YES, EXPLAIN

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Vernacular | DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: c.1802
8. MATERIAL(S) (Indicate use or location when appropriate)
   ☒ Clapboard ☐ Asbestos Siding ☒ Brick ☐ Other (Specify)
   ☐ Wood Shingle ☐ Asphalt Siding ☐ Fieldstone
   ☐ Board & Batten ☐ Stucco ☐ Cobblestone
   ☐ Aluminum Siding ☐ Concrete Type: ☒ Cut stone Type: Brownstone foundation
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM
   ☐ Wood frame ☐ Post and beam ☐ balloon
   ☒ Load bearing masonry ☐ Structural iron or steel
   ☐ Other (Specify)
10. ROOF (Type)
   ☒ Gable ☐ Flat ☐ Mansard ☐ Monitor ☐ sawtooth
   ☐ Gambrel ☐ Shed ☐ Hip ☐ Round ☐ Other (Specify)
   (Material)
   ☐ Wood Shingle ☐ Roll Asphalt ☐ Tin ☐ Slate ☐ Gable end to the street
   ☒ Asphalt shingle ☐ Built up ☐ Tile ☐ Other (Specify) ☒ Ridge parallel to the street
11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2 1/2 | APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 34' x 30'
12. CONDITION (Structural): ☐ Excellent ☒ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Deteriorated | (Exterior): ☐ Excellent ☒ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY (Location): ☒ On original site ☐ Moved | WHEN? | (Alterations): ☒ Yes ☐ No | IF YES, EXPLAIN: roof altered c. 1930s
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES
   ☐ Barn ☐ Shed ☒ Garage ☐ Other landscape features or buildings (Specify)
   ☐ Carriage house ☐ Shop ☐ Garden
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT
   ☐ Open land ☐ Wood-land ☒ Residential ☐ Scattered buildings visible from site
   ☐ Commercial ☐ Indus-trial ☐ Rural ☒ High building density
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS

Across street from William Savage House, another early 19th-century dwelling. At northern end of East Berlin's largest concentration of older buildings.

(OVER)

005

PHOTO

PHOTOGRAPHER: HRC | DATE: 11/84

VIEW: NE | NEGATIVE ON FILE: D19

COMPILED

NAME: Historic Resource Consultants | DATE: 12/84

ADDRESS: The Colt Armory, 55 Van Dyke Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut 06106

20 SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATION:

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

17 OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior)

The Colonel Richard Wilcox House has a five-bay facade with a central entry; brick walls are laid up in Flemish bond. Windows have wooden sills and are fitted with old 6-over-6 sash. Entry and window openings have splayed brick lintels; those on the second-floor windows are largely concealed by the later roof treatment. The house once had a full-width front porch (shown by a band of darker brick between floors); the entry is now sheltered by a Colonial Revival porch with Tuscan columns, a plain frieze, and a pedimented peak with a vertical-board tympanum. The double entry doors are c. 1900 with a single large light over panels; there is a rectangular glazed transom. The roof treatment is a 20th-century alteration. A wide plain frieze extends

(continued)

18 ARCHITECT | BUILDER

SIGNIFICANCE

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

Architecturally, the Colonel Richard Wilcox House is significant as a good, if somewhat altered, example of an early-19th-century brick central-hall house. The dwelling originally had a hipped roof and twin chimneys; the current gable roof was added in the 20th century to create more useful space in the attic story. Offering greater flexibility, more light, and better ventilation, the central hall house replaced the ubiquitous central chimney plan of the 18th century and remained a common house form until the rise of the Greek Revival style in the 1820s and 1830s. In urban areas, central hall houses appeared before the Revolution; in relatively isolated Berlin, the central chimney mode predominated until about 1800.

Colonel Richard Wilcox is thought to have built this house about 1802.

CES

Interview with owner
Tercentenary List

Colonel Richard Wilcox House

17. (continued):

across the front eaves, the gable ends are clapboarded, and a molded cornice shows a partial return. There is a single brick chimney offset to the right, to the left is a recent cross-gabled extension.